

six members of the United Nations General Assembly. The Convention expresses the conviction that children have rights, the same full spectrum of rights as adults, civil and political, social, cultural and economic. The United States is one of the six countries that has not yet signed this Convention.

American taxpayers' dollars are used to fund free trade zones which contribute to an environment of poverty for the people of developing countries. It is this kind of environment that supports the exploitation of children by national, international companies. Often a free trade zone means no corporate taxes, no income taxes, no regulations and no unions. GAT and the World Trade Organization are influenced heavily by the U.S. and it is here that the United States must take some responsibility for the fact that they support organizations which do not recognize child labor as a relevant issue.

Other organizations which receive support from the United States are the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These organizations are responsible for massive government adjustment into developing countries. The structural adjustment programs primarily consist of spending cuts that hurt social and educational programs. These cuts hurt the lower classes of the country and make the cycle of child labor all the more difficult to break. It is a cycle, one perpetuated by poverty and employees willing to exploit the poor and the helpless.

The greatest setback for these children is their lack of education. Everyone agrees that the key to ending child labor is in mandatory education legislation. This is important because while many people express the need for economic sanctions and boycotts, large-scale sanctions cannot be imposed on developing countries until safe and productive alternatives are developed for the children who would lose their jobs.

What then is the solution to this problem? What can we do to ensure that children are not exploited throughout the world? There are many factors of influential power in the United States. The most important one is the power of the individual. The incredible accomplishments of NGOs, that's non-governmental organizations, across the world were all put into action by individuals who wanted to make a difference. The death of child activist Icbow McSee sparked the birth of Free the Children, an organization dedicated to children's rights.

Free the Children is run by students ages 8 through 18. The group of school children in Quincy, Massachusetts who raised \$144,000 to build schools and educational programs in Pakistan in order to help fulfill Icbow McSee's uncompleted dream is another example of this incredible power.

Even in the simple choices of the consumer, the individual can make a statement about what methods of production they will and will not support. Educating others about the situation is also an individual source of power. The media is a valuable tool in expressing individual opinion. Disney and Gap in particular received enough negative publicity to publicly embarrass the companies into amending their production methods.

Bob Herbert wrote recently in the New York Times that Nike is important because it epitomizes the triumph of monetary values over all others and the corresponding devaluation into peculiar interests and values we once thought of as human. Corporations do not like to create this kind of name for themselves.

Secondly, the pound of influence of the private sector should not be underestimated. Transnational companies like Reebok and Levi Strauss have been positive forces in using safe and non-exploitive methods of pro-

duction. All corporations should adopt such codes of conduct as an essential step towards eliminating child labor.

The government of the United States has the potential to be a powerful force in the fight against child labor yet presently the government does not seem to be taking the appropriate actions necessary. If corporations can be called on to adopt codes of conduct, the more (unclear) the government of our country. The United States must sign a convention on the rights of a child. The government must work to regulate our nation's companies to ensure that child abuse is not a human resource in our nation as well. The government must include the basic rights of children as part of their agenda when forming free trade zones and when interacting with organizations such as the World Bank.

I call on the U.S. Government to take a stance, to show us that hazardous child labor cannot be acceptable in any form for any reason. The exploitation of the world's children is an international crisis for democracy and justice and we need to do our part.

Companies will go to the third-world countries where they can hire and they want to hire children because they can work faster and their hand-eye coordination is actually better when they're, you know, aged between 12 and 15 and they don't have to pay them anything. These people are being paid piece wages about 12 cents a garment. If it's a choice between paying someone 12 cents to make a garment in a place where there are no environmental conditions, no social regulations, nothing like that outside of the United States regular like restrictions on companies, they don't need to follow any of these rules.

Bonded laborers—Icbow McSee is actually an example of one of these. Most of them are in Asia and China, Indonesia and Pakistan. If a parent needs to pay off debts, what they'll often do is they will sell their children to manufacturers who will collect these children around the ages of sometimes as young as four or five where they can never make any wages because they spend their entire lives paying off the debt of their parents, and often these children are made, forced to stay in their factories by being chained to looms, especially in the oriental rug market.

IN HONOR OF THE WESTERN QUEENS GAZETTE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the valuable contributions the Western Queens Gazette has made to the city of New York. Today, the Gazette celebrates its 15th anniversary of serving as an essential voice for the community.

The Gazette was inaugurated in 1982 by a group of enthusiastic community activists, few of whom had any previous journalism experience. This group, which included the paper's original publishers—George Stamatiades, Roger LaGhezza, and Judy Jackson—developed the first newspaper in a makeshift office erected in one of their basements. Just 19 days after they had the initial idea to publish a newspaper in the Queens community, the first issue of the paper went to press. Since that time, the Gazette has been published regularly. At a time when the print media has been consolidating, the Western Queens Ga-

zette has found a home in a community that is hungry for news.

In 1983, John Toscano and Buster Celestino purchased the paper; they continued to publish it until 1990 when Tony Barsamian, the Gazette's current publisher, took over. Under Mr. Barsamian's leadership, the Gazette has increasingly become the leading source of local news and information for the community.

For 15 years, the Western Queens Gazette has served as an outstanding journalistic vehicle through which the Queens community can express itself. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Western Queens Gazette on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

CONGRESSMAN TOM CAMPBELL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNI- VERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley received a grant from the U.S. Information Agency [USIA] for work connected with the Haas School's efforts to open a business school in St. Petersburg, Russia. My wife, Susanne Campbell, is the Executive Director of that program. She has reapplied to the USIA for this same grant this year.

In December 1995, I won election to Congress. I am currently a member of the International Relations Committee. This committee has jurisdiction authorizing moneys for the USIA. I have informed the Committee on the Standards of Official Conduct of my wife's involvement with UC-Berkeley and the USIA, and sought counsel as to what conduct would be appropriate.

I have been advised by the committee that under clause 3 of the House Rule 43 of the Code of Official Conduct, a Member "shall receive no compensation * * * to accrue to his beneficial interest from any source, the receipt of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from his position in the Congress." In addition, clause 5 of the Code of Ethics for Government Service reiterates clause 3 of House Rule 43, by providing that a Federal official should "never accept for himself or his family, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties." Additionally, Federal officials should "[n]ever discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not."

The committee informs me that, under these rules, there is no question that my wife may seek USIA funding for her program while I am a Member of Congress. Since the USIA grant does not include her salary, the committee has advised that no legal threshold is reached that would require a further ethics discussion.

As to my official conduct, House Rule 8 of the Code of Official Conduct states that, "[e]very Member * * * shall vote on each question put, unless he has a direct personnel